14.35 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

(i) Need to enhance the capacity of Alkalide Factory Producing Life-Saving Drugs at Neemuch in Madhya Pradesh.

[Translation]

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA (Mandsaur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there is an alkalide factory in Neemuch in Madhya Pradesh, equipped with modern facilities and is producing life-saving drugs. This factory is earning a lot of foreign currency. Keeping in view the domestic demand and foreign demand for these life saving drugs. There is a need to increase the capacity of this factory. With such an expansion, there will not only be an increase in the production of drugs and an increase in foreign exchange in flow, but this would also save foreign exchange and would provide employment to the qualified youth. The income of lakhs of farmers, engaged in cultivation of "opium" a basic ingredient for drugs produced in the said factory, would also be increased as they would get remunerative price for their produce.

I therefore, request the hon. Minister that the present capacity of the said alkalide factory may be doubled. This alongwith the benefits to lakhs of peasant families, would provide employment to the unemployed persons in large number and the country would earn foreign exchange worth crores of rupees.

SHRI SUBODH MOHITE (Ramtek): Mr. Deputy Speaker, tomorrow we have the great festival of 'Ganesh Chaturthi'. This festival is celebrated by crores of people.

We stage a walkout from the House in protest against the non-declaration of Ganesh Chaturthi as parliamentary holiday.

14.37 hrs.

We stage a walkout from the House in protest against the non-declaration of Ganesh Chaturthi as parliamentary holiday.

14.37 hrs.

At this stage, Shri Subodh Mohite and some other hon. Members left the House.

(ii) Need to Improve Telephone Service in Jalagaon Parliamentary Constituency, Maharashtra.

SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN (Jalagaon): 96 telephone exchanges are functioning in my parliamentary constituency (Maharashtra) presently. 42 of these exchanges are connected with F.O.C. Rest of the 54 exchanges are running through open wire system. We are receiving a lot of complaints regarding irregularity in functioning of all these 54 exchanges. The telephone services in villages falling under many of these exchanges has become totally non functional for the last three months due to which the people of this area are facing a lot of difficulties. 354 kilometres length of OFC is required in order to connect these 54 exchanges with the Optical Fibre Cable System (OFC).

I, therefore, through you, request the hon. Minister of Communications to kindly issue orders for immediately alloting optical fibre cable to my parliamentary constituency, Jalagaon.

(iii) Need to Provide Special Economic Package For Rajasthan for All Round Development of Desert Districts of the State.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI (Jodhpur): Sir, I am an M.P. from Jodhpur Constituency of Lok Sabha, which is a desert district. There are in all 14 such districts in Rajasthan. All such facilities provided to hill regions are also required to be given to these districts for development. Neither any industry would be established in these regions, nor infrastructure would develop in the rural and urban areas unless these desert districts are given special assistance. Even today, there are no proper facilities of roads, water, power, telecommunications, schools, Post Offices, hospitals etc. in these desert districts especially Jodhpur.

Sir, I request the Hon. Prime Minister to announce special package for desert districts.

(iv) Need to Expedite Completion of Pending Marketing Plans of Oil Companies

SHRI SAIDUZZAMA (Muzaffarnagar): There is paucity of fuel in far flung areas of the country. The Government have suspended the work of around 11 "Dealer Selection Boards" with regard to the allotment of petroleum and LPG agencies, which has affected more than 100 revenue districts of the country. I am sure that the Government must have resolved the reasons behind the suspension, as already four months have passed. Sir, whatever reasons are furnished behind such suspension but I feel the Government are trying to discourage the marketing plans of Public Sector Oil Companies like I.O.C., B.P.C.L., H.P.C.L. and I.B.P. Sir, the marketing plans of Government owned oil companies are pending for a number of years.

Sir, I request the Government to immediately give approval to the pending marketing plans of the Government owned oil companies.

[English]

(v) Need to take steps for all round development of Malda district in West Bengal.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): Sir, a new Sub-divisional Headquarter in my constituency Raiganj has been created at Chancal within Malda district where immediate support is required in the Ninth Plan allocation for having a 250 bed modern hospital with special treatment support in heart, kidney and paediatrics. This Sub-Division is the most under-developed zone of West Bengal. A Degree Engineering College in the Ninth Plan last phase or in the Tenth Plan document must figure along with total metalled road in the entire route of Mahananda embankment from Noorganj to Harish-chandrapur in this Sub-Division to facilitate economic activities.

A college at Harishchandrapur and science stream in all the colleges is extremely essential by the end of the Ninth Plan. The Planning Ministry of the Union Government may kindly take initiative jointly with the State Government in response to the Prime Minister's speech at Red Fort on 15th August, 2001, to overcome regional imbalances in the Plan proposals.

(vi) Need to revamp urea manufacturing unit at Durgapur, West Bengal.

SHRI SUNIL KHAN (Durgapur): Sir, regarding availability of LNG in the State of West Bengal, a meeting was arranged by WBIDC (West Bengal Industrial Development Corporation) where the representatives of